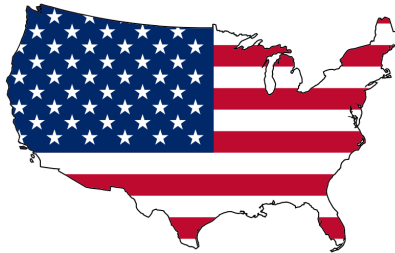


United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



Global articles for your interest
Issue 6
March 20 - April 2, 2010

Contents:

1. Obama Makes Surprise Visit to Afghanistan to Honor Troops

President Obama makes a surprise visit to Afghanistan, where he tells Afghan and coalition troops that the fight they are making against al-Qaida and the Taliban reflects the struggle between violent extremism and those who value human dignity and offer cooperation and hope. ...

2. US, EU Committed to Balkan Democracy, Prosperity

The United States and Europe are working together to reinforce democratic institutions within the Balkans and to bring greater economic prosperity to the region, says Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg. "That commitment is not just a rhetorical one," Steinberg says. ...

3. Citizen or Not, the US Census Counts Everyone

The U.S. Census Bureau has kicked off its monumental \$14.5 billion effort to get an exact count of the estimated 309 million people living in the United States. The purpose is to ensure that Americans are fairly represented in the U.S. Congress. ...

4. New Treaty Reduces US, Russian Nuclear Arsenals

President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev finalize a landmark agreement that will cut the number of deployed nuclear weapons by 30 percent. Obama and Medvedev completed the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with a telephone call March 26. ...

5. US Offers \$1.15 Billion for Haitian Recovery

Announcing a \$1.15 billion pledge for Haiti, Secretary Clinton urges other donors to offer support "in a smarter way" than in the past and warns that failure to respond effectively would lead not only to continued Haitian despair, but also have indirect repercussions on their own countries. ...

6. Cultural Sites Tell America's Story

The U.S. National Park Service, which manages sites and structures that have played significant roles in the nation's history, is engaged in preserving and interpreting the American past, says Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Philip T. Reeker/LP

[Ambassador Reeker Interview with Macedonia's Biznis Daily](#)

March 31, 2010

Ambassador Reeker spoke to Macedonia's Biznis Daily in a wide-ranging interview for its March 31, 2010 issue. The Ambassador focused on economic issues, discussing the global financial crisis and America's swift action domestically and internationally, and then addressing questions regarding Macedonia's economy and competitiveness. The Ambassador offered his views on Macedonia's difficulty in attracting foreign direct investment, his 2008 investment promotion trip to the U.S. with Prime Minister Gruevski, the potential impact of NATO and EU accession, and the portion of the one billion dollars of U.S. government assistance through USAID programs that have been invested to support economic growth in Macedonia.

♦ To see a transcript of the interview, please [click here](#).



PAO/Ryan Rowlands discusses the activities related to Macedonia's Tree Day on MTV 1 morning program.

Discussing Tree Day

March 30, 2010

Public Affairs Officer Ryan Rowlands spoke to MTV about the importance of caring for the world we live in while discussing activities related to Macedonia's Tree Day. He praised local efforts to preserve the environment led by Boris Trajnov and the Tree Day Foundation and explained how the Embassy has supported this work. Ryan underscored that President Obama has made environmental protection one of his highest priorities, recognizing that all of the citizens of the world must work together to address climate change.

♦ To see a short excerpt [MTV1 video footage, WMV file - size 7.24 MB] from this interview, please [click here](#).

♦ To see a short excerpt [A1 video footage, WMV file - size 6.47 MB] from the RANODEN show, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker with the winners of the English Speaking Contest (LP)

American Corner Skopje Hosts Speaking Contest to Celebrate Its Fifth Anniversary

March 27, 2010

The American Corner in Skopje hosted a Speaking Contest to highlight the English language skills of middle and high schools students. Ambassador Reeker emphasized that commitment to education early on sets the foundation for professional accomplishments and educational opportunities in the future. He congratulated the winners and finalists from two age brackets and thanked the organizers of the contest – English Language Fellow Mary Bromwell, the Corner staff and several Peace Corps volunteers - for their efforts. The Ambassador also praised the Corner for its five years of service to the community in providing American programming, learning materials and educational advising.



Ambassador Reeker talks with the families of the soldiers deploying to Afghanistan (LP)

video - MTV1 footage, WMV 4.27 MB

Ambassador Reeker Joins President Ivanov at Send Off Ceremony

March 26, 2010

Ambassador Reeker joined President Ivanov, Minister of Defense Konjanovski, and Chief of Defense General Stojanovski in a send off ceremony for the 79 soldiers deploying to Afghanistan to serve with the United States Vermont National Guard on Friday, March 25 at Illinden Barracks. Family members participated in the event for two platoons of Rangers and Military Police among others who will support the International Security Assistance Force mission in and around Parwan province. After noting that Macedonia has deployed more than 1200 soldiers to date to Afghanistan, Ambassador Reeker noted "Macedonia has answered President Obama's call to come together. On his behalf, I thank you for your continued service and for Macedonia's contributions to global peace and security. Your country is honored by your dedication to duty and the world will be a safer more secure place as a direct result of your resolve."

◇ To see a transcript of his remarks, please [click here](#).

◇ To see local news coverage (MTV1 video footage - WMV file, size 4.27 MB), of his visit, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker discusses the importance of the political dialogue in a democracy in front of the large crowd at the Southeast European University. (LP)

A Democracy Commission Project Brings Together a Wide Array of Political and Ethnic Groups

March 25, 2010

Ambassador Philip Reeker visited the Southeast European University (SEEU) for the closing ceremony of a Democracy Commission Project implemented by the Institute for Democracy and Development (IDD). The project brought together youth from various political parties and ethnic groups to discuss topics of importance to Macedonia. The Ceremony included the presentation of certificates to the students of the "School for Leadership" created as a part of the IDD project. In his address to the packed auditorium, Ambassador Reeker spoke about the importance of participation and political dialogue in a democracy. He urged the students to use the skills they learned to improve Macedonia and stressed that their constructive dialogue in this 20 week program could serve as a model for politicians in the country.

♦ To see a transcript of his remarks, please [click here](#).

♦ To see local news coverage (ALSAT – M TV video footage in Albanian - WMV file, size 2.31 MB), of his visit, please [click here](#).



Ambassador Reeker talks to the students from Geras Cunev Primary School in Strumica (LP)

Ambassador Reeker Visits Strumica Region.

March 24, 2010

Ambassador Reeker continued his outreach to cities throughout Macedonia with a two-day visit to the Strumica region. His itinerary included visits with several entrepreneurs in the agriculture, wine, and dairy industries that have benefited from USAID technical assistance. The Geras Cunev and Video Podgorec schools hosted the Ambassador with performances and home-made cakes. The schools received support from the U.S. European Command and USAID for building renovations as well as the USAID Green Schools initiative. In addition, to a visit with some U.S. Peace Corps volunteers working in the area, the Ambassador met with Strumica's Mayor Zoran Zaev at the Strumica City Hall and Reverend Cekov at the Methodist Church soup kitchen. Bishop Naum concluded the tour by hosting a traditional Macedonian meal at the historic Veljusa Monastery that was prepared by the monastery's diligent nuns.

♦ To see more photos from this event, please [click here](#).

For All Embassy News go to: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov>

Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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